

# Green Hills LIVING

A NEWSLETTER EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE GREEN HILLS COMMUNITY | APRIL 2013

## Dortch Family

Photography by: Claudia Kay Cofer | [www.claudiakayphoto.com](http://www.claudiakayphoto.com)



*Meet Molly and Kate Dortch  
in the Athletes & Kids section.*

# **BUSINESS** beat

*Meet Beth English*





Growing up in the same small town as Janis Joplin and American painter Robert Rauschenberg inspired Beth English to always pursue her dreams.

“You can come from wherever; where you come from shouldn’t hold you back,” says English.

And it certainly hasn’t held her back. She moved out of her small town after graduating with a degree in business marketing from the University of Texas in Austin, and spent a few years in the U.S. Virgin Islands working as a scuba diving instructor before moving to Nashville and becoming a custom artist and designer.

English has lived in Nashville since 2007, and has been doing custom art since then. While she has done art shows and been featured in galleries before, she has shifted her focus to custom art.

“I love doing custom art,” says English. “People have an idea, and I have an answer. They give me the creative freedom to do what I do.”

As a custom artist, English creates pieces based on what her clients need and/or want. She meets the clients in their home and looks at the particular space where they want to feature her art. She lays down all the expectations for the clients: size, cost, and the expected date for the piece to be finished. The starting size

for a custom art piece is 16 inches by 20 inches for \$350. English says that some of her best work is custom art.

“Making pieces for someone else really drives me to make it special,” says English. “I just want them to love it.”

She calls her custom art “Binglish art” or “getting Binglished.” She has done custom pieces for local celebrities such as Reese Witherspoon as well as country stars Joe Don Rooney from Rascal Flatts, and Deana Carter. Carter’s father passed away, and she had English paint a mural of her and her father on a couch playing guitar.

“Art is a visual reminder of whatever you want to bring into your home—love and hope,” says English.

# BUSINESS beat ...continued



English starts her artistic process by laying out the design graphically, and then she begins to play with all different types of material to use on the piece. She loves to work with paper. She has also used crayon on paper before, but she gets really excited about how certain pieces of paper turn out when she uses tea-dye.

“It’s organic like dying fabric,” says English. “I’m such a nerd.”

English also does a lot of work for the community as well as for nonprofit organizations in Nashville. She recently painted a 75-foot tree mural on the rooftop garden above McKendree United Methodist Church located at 520 Commerce Street. She is also working with Mending Hearts, a recovery center



for women struggling with substance addiction. She helped them to create a community mural which “tells a wonderful story of change through peace, hope and love,” according to English’s Facebook page. She is hoping to do more organizations in the future.

“It’s so much more rewarding to work with another organization towards a common goal,” says English.

English also started an artist group in Nashville where young artists meet once a month to help each other to make a better artist community.

“We can do things better together than alone,” says English. “We want to know what artists are struggling with.”

Her advice to young artists is to invest in yourself and your abilities.

“It’s better than not trying to pursue your dreams.”

For more information about Beth and her artwork, please visit [www.binglishART.com](http://www.binglishART.com).